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10 June 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director, Research and Reports

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THROUGH:

SUBJECT: Evaluation of CIA/RR-G 59-1, The Soviet Arctic

1. This report presents a comprehensive geographic analysis of present developments and activities in the Soviet Arctic. Items of economic, scientific, and military nature have been emphasized. Because of the increasing military and economic significance of this strategic region to the remainder of the USSR and the limited amount of finished intelligence that is available, the text will serve as a valuable source and reference aid to everyone in the intelligence community concerned with the Soviet Arctic.

2. The report is an extensive revision of The Soviet Arctic, CIA/RR-G-15, which was published in 1956 and is now out of print. Since the original report was so well received in the intelligence community, and since rapid developments in the region made the original study out of date, a revision was deemed necessary. The four major chapters of G-15 -- population and settlement, economic activities, transportation facilities, and physical environment -- have been brought up to date and the chapter on scientific activities has been greatly expanded to include data on the Soviet IGY program and nuclear tests. A new chapter on telecommunications and a section on submarine activities have been added. The maps published in G-15 have also been updated and several new ones have been added. The revision incorporates a great amount of research utilizing all sources of intelligence.

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Enclosure:  
Photolith of subject report

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